IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Case Nos. 1:16-CR-082 3 and 1:17-CR-0724 VS. (Judge Kane) 5 FRANKLYN BENJAMIN MOLINA, Defendant 6 7 TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE YVETTE KANE 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SEPTEMBER 20, 2017; 10:00 A.M. HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 9 10 FOR THE GOVERNMENT: 11 Meredith A. Taylor, Assistant United States Attorney United States Attorney's Office 12 228 Walnut Street, Second Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 13 14 FOR THE DEFENDANT: John A. Abom, Esquire 15 Abom & Kutulakis 2 West High Street 16 Carlisle, PA 17013 17 ALSO PRESENT: 18 Crystal Bard, United States Probation Officer 19 20 21 Lori A. Shuey Federal Certified Realtime Reporter 2.2 United States Courthouse 228 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 983 23 Harrisburg, PA 17108-0983 717-215-1270 2.4 lori shuey@pamd.uscourts.gov Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript 25 produced by computer-aided transcription.

MS. TAYLOR: Your Honor, this is the case of United 1 2 States of America v. Franklyn Molina, this court's docket 1:16-CR-82 and 1:17-CR-72. Mr. Molina is present represented 3 by Mr. Abom, and we are here today for Mr. Molina's sentencing. 4 5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Abom, good morning. 6 MR. ABOM: Good morning, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: I'm sure you've seen the presentence 8 report, which contains a guideline calculation of 180 to 210 months based on the statutory minimum. The offense level has 9 been calculated at 34 and a criminal history category two. 10 MR. ABOM: We have seen it. I have reviewed it with 11 Mr. Molina, addressed any concerns or issues he has had, and we 12 13 have not set forth any objections to the calculation and 14 sentencing range. 15 THE COURT: Is there anything you want to offer on your client's behalf? 16 MR. ABOM: Very briefly. And I do note that 17 Mr. Molina has prepared a statement that he would like to read 18 to the court. 19 20 And just in summary, Mr. Molina, I think, has been 21 suffering himself from being a victim of a sexual offense, and 22 I don't think he necessarily has addressed all of the issues 23 that need to be addressed. We recognize he had a prior offense while he was in 24 25 the Navy for which he did time, and now we have these two

offenses for which I believe the court will be sentencing.

The more serious of the two is a 15-year mandatory, and so it sets a floor of an appropriate sentencing range of 180 months. There is another offense that carries a five-year sentence, a five-year mandatory sentence, I believe. And we're respectfully requesting the court impose those two sentences concurrently and to impose a sentencing -- a guideline sentence of 180 months.

He does -- in terms of a location, he doesn't have a specific location but does ask the court to request to the Bureau of Prisons that he be sent to a facility that would offer both mental health treatment and also sexual offender treatment. And while I think that's likely to happen, perhaps a suggestion from the court --

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. ABOM: -- would help ensure that that does take place. That's all I have.

THE COURT: Thank you. Do you wish to speak?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. I have a statement that I've prepared.

THE COURT: All right.

THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, first I feel I must begin by apologizing to the people I've hurt in my actions and my irresponsible behavior. I -- excuse me. I never meant for any of this to happen. I'm not excusing any of my actions, but I

feel at the very least I must explain myself.

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I had sought this material because I was still suffering from problems stemming from my past. As a child, I had suffered from sexual molestation which had affected me far too greatly. I had sought to relive my experience by once again engaging in this inappropriate behavior.

I feel the shame from my reoffending because I didn't continue to seek help on my past trauma. I thought I could handle it on my own, but I was more than wrong. As a result, I wound up hurting both myself and others who have been affected by this sickness and depravity.

I admit that I do have a problem. All I want is help for what I have done so I can return to society a better person and do everything I can to help those who were victimized by this experience.

I want to do everything I can just to make everything right again. Even after I serve my time, I still want to continue my therapy and counseling so this doesn't happen again. I'm just sick and tired of giving into the sorrow.

While serving time at Adams County Prison, I have learned a great deal from the programs offered, as well as the mental health counselor, Ms. Jen Tucker. She has been immensely helpful in my treatment and my situation.

And my counselor, my former counselor, Mr. Lyons, who is now at York County, he has helped me learn how to control my

problems and avoid bad behavior and poor choices, such as learning about things like ambivalence, for example.

It has also further helped me with the anger management course and control therapy groups, just doing all that I can to help myself and to stop hurting others, stop reoffending, and to become a productive man again.

I could beat this problem as long as I have -- as long as I have the people I love and care for support me, as they always have, and continue my treatment.

I have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that He will see me through this and to help others who have suffered through this abuse. I beg the court to consider this when giving a sentence.

And, finally, I close out my statement with Psalm 32: When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. I acknowledged my sin unto you and my iniquity have I not hid. As I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous, and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Ms. Taylor.

MS. TAYLOR: Your Honor, I have no doubt that Mr. Molina made some of those same types of statements to the court that he stood before in 2009 when he was found guilty of possessing child pornography at the general court-martial that

he faced when he was in the Navy for possession of child pornography at that time.

He was given a 48-month sentence and a dishonorable discharge, and there was an agreement that he would serve a 24-month sentence of imprisonment then.

Even though this is only the second time he's come before a court for this type of behavior, this is really his third strike because he has the conviction for the possession of child pornography in 2009 and what he's before the court for today are two separate offenses separated in time by approximately six months.

In December of 2014, which is the 2016 docket, he possessed child pornography on the devices that were seized ——
I'm sorry, that's the 2017 docket. He possessed child pornography, images of child pornography on devices that he had at that time. And the ages —— when those devices were forensically reviewed, the ages of the children on those images were as young as four months to up to 12 years being sexually abused by adults.

Even though those devices were seized by federal agents in December of 2014, his interaction with federal law enforcement authorities in December of that year did not stop him from continuing this behavior. And new devices that he obtained, he, again, was in online chat rooms in July of 2015, and his activities in those rooms make up the basis for the

charges that he pled guilty to at the 2016 docket.

So, Your Honor, even though he was not charged at the time those devices were seized in December of 2014 and he's now being charged for those then, essentially he has three separate acts of — three separate times he's encountered law enforcement, three separate times that child pornography has been found, that he's been involved with child pornography by law enforcement officers.

And but for the fact that his 2009 conviction was charged and he was found guilty under a particular section of the military code, he would actually be facing the 25-year mandatory as a second offender here before this court. Because it was done in the manner it was, he's not, and he's facing the 15-year mandatory on the 2016 docket.

Your Honor, I raise all those issues to point out, because those are two separate issues, the December 14th, the July, 2015, two separate dockets, clearly involve two separate sets of victims, I would ask the court to impose sentences that take that into account, into account that he, you know, even encountering law enforcement on separate times, you know, separated by six months, having already had one prior conviction that he served time for, that the court impose a 15-year sentence on the one docket and a five-year sentence on the other and run those consecutively.

THE COURT: All right. Counsel, I understand there's

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an appellate waiver here, but it's still incumbent upon the court to consider the 3553(a) factors, which I have done here.

I've considered the nature and the circumstances that bring Mr. Molina before the court. I'm aware of his prior encounters with the law and his personal history that has brought him to a place where this conduct is so compelling, this need is so compelling that even appreciating the dire consequences, he would reoffend and come before the court.

I'm impressed by the statement that he's made to the court. I think he understands how serious the offense is, the horrific effect that it has on the victims because he personally has been witness to that, and I do believe that he's going to do his best to conform his behavior.

Even with a minimum sentence, he has a long time to take advantage of the counseling and programs that are available at the Bureau of Prisons, and I'll certainly recommend those to him.

A guideline range sentence is appropriate and fair under all of the circumstances. I believe that the minimum sentence is adjusted because of the statutory minimum and that a sentence at the lower end of the guideline range would be adequate to satisfy the need for a punishment and reflect the seriousness of the offense on both offenses that bring Mr. Molina before the court.

I've also considered sentencing disparity, and, again,

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I believe that a guideline range sentence would be adequate and would not result in a sentencing disparity.

Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, it's the judgment of the court that the defendant, Franklyn Benjamin Molina, is hereby committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of 195 months. This sentence consists of 195 months on each count to run concurrently.

It's ordered that the defendant pay to the Clerk, U.S. District Court, a special assessment of \$100 on each count due immediately.

The court finds that the defendant does not have the ability to pay a fine, but he shall make restitution in the amount of \$40,000 payable to the Clerk, U.S. District Court, for disbursement as follows: \$25,000 to Sarah; \$5,000 to Pia; \$5,000 to Mya; and \$5,000 to Ava. Payment of interest is waived. The defendant shall forfeit to the United States his interest in certain properties described in the charging document.

During the term of imprisonment, the restitution is payable every three months in an amount after a telephone allowance equal to 50 percent of the funds deposited into the defendant's inmate trust fund account.

In the event that restitution is not paid in full prior to the commencement of supervised release, the defendant

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shall, as a condition of supervised release, satisfy the amount due in monthly installments of no less than \$50 to commence 30 days after release from confinement.

On release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised release for a term of 15 years to run concurrently on each count. Within 72 hours of release, the defendant shall report in person to the probation office in the district to which he is released.

While on supervised release, the defendant shall not commit any federal, state, or local crime and shall not possess a dangerous weapon.

The defendant shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by the court and with the following additional conditions:

The defendant must cooperate in the collection of a DNA sample as directed by the probation officer unless a sample is collected during imprisonment.

The defendant must participate in a mental health treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program.

The probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider, will supervise participation in the program, which may include an evaluation and completion of any recommended treatment. The defendant must take all mental health medications that are prescribed by the treating

physician.

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The defendant must not incur new credit charges or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer. The defendant must provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information and authorize the release of any financial information. The probation office may share financial information with the United States Attorney's Office.

The defendant must apply all monies received from income tax refunds, lottery winnings, judgments, and/or other anticipated or unexpected financial gains to the outstanding court-ordered financial obligation.

If the judgment imposes a financial penalty, the defendant must pay that penalty in accordance with the schedule of payments. He must also notify the court of any changes in economic circumstances that might affect the ability to pay the financial penalty.

The defendant must allow the probation officer to install computer monitoring software on any computer as defined in 18, United States Code, Section 1030(e)(1).

To ensure compliance with the computer monitoring condition, the defendant must allow the probation officer to conduct initial and periodic unannounced searches of any computer subject to computer monitoring.

These searches shall be conducted for the purposes of

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determining whether the computer contains any prohibited data prior to installation of monitoring software, to determine whether the monitoring software is functioning effectively after its installation, and to determine whether there have been attempts to circumvent the monitoring software after its installation.

The defendant must warn any other people who use these computers that the computers may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

The defendant must participate in a sex offense specific assessment. The defendant must participate in a sex offense specific treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer will supervise participation in the program that could include an evaluation and completion of any recommended treatment.

The defendant must not have direct contact with any child that he knows or reasonably should know to be under the age of 18 without the permission of the probation officer. If the defendant has any direct contact with any child that he knows or reasonably should know to be under the age of 18 without the permission of the probation officer, he must report this contact to the probation officer within 24 hours.

Direct contact includes written communication, in-person communication, or physical contact. Direct contact does not include incidental contact during ordinary daily

activities in public places.

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The defendant must not go to or remain at any place where he knows children under the age of 18 are likely to be, including parks, schools, playgrounds, and child care facilities.

The defendant must not go to or remain at a place for the primary purpose of observing or contacting children under the age of 18. The defendant must not have contact with any victims or any members of the victim's family.

And the defendant must submit his person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computers, other electronic communications or data storage devices or media or office to a search conducted by the United States probation officer.

Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release. The defendant shall warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

The court finds that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse and therefore suspends the mandatory blood testing requirement. It's my determination that the sentence is sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a)(2).

I have considered all seven factors set forth in the statute, and I recognize that the guidelines, policy statements, and amendments are advisory only. I find their

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application in this case reasonable and appropriate under all of the circumstances.

Mr. Molina, normally you would have a right to appeal your conviction if you believed that the guilty plea you entered was somehow unlawful or involuntary or if you thought there was some other fundamental defect in the proceedings that you did not waive by entering a guilty plea.

Normally you would also have a statutory right to appeal your sentence under certain circumstances, particularly if you thought the sentence I imposed on you was contrary to law. However, a defendant may waive these rights as part of a plea agreement, and you've entered into a plea agreement that waives some or all of your rights to appeal your conviction and/or your sentence.

These waivers are usually enforceable, but if you believe the waiver you executed in this case is somehow unenforceable, you're entitled to present that theory to the appellate court. With few exceptions, any Notice of Appeal must be filed within 14 days after sentence is imposed on you.

If you're not able to pay the costs of an appeal, you may ask the court for leave to appeal in forma pauperis, and if you ask, the Clerk of Court will prepare and file a Notice of Appeal on your behalf.

Counsel, anything else for the record?

MS. TAYLOR: Yes, Your Honor. We would ask that

Counts 11 and 12 at Docket 16-CR-82 be dismissed as to this 1 2 defendant. THE COURT: Motion granted. Anything else? 3 MR. ABOM: Your Honor, when you ordered restitution to 4 5 be paid, we would request that -- I don't know if this 6 automatically happens, but we'd ask that it be made joint and 7 several with any other defendants in any other cases who are 8 ordered to also pay restitution on behalf -- to these victims. THE COURT: All right. 9 PROBATION OFFICER: Your Honor, that's not common 10 practice with this type of case. It's always just ordered as 11 We've never been told otherwise for joint and several 12 it is. because there are so many defendants being ordered for these 13 14 amounts at this point in time. 15 MR. ABOM: I understand. And so what I would suggest, and not in any way condoning anything --16 THE COURT: Right. 17 MR. ABOM: -- but if somebody's damages are \$25,000 or 18 \$5,000 and that's the damages, then it would be inappropriate 19 20 to order ten people to pay \$25,000 and that person be unjustly 21 enriched. MS. TAYLOR: But, Your Honor, as Mr. Abom knows, 22 23 that's not the case in these situations, and that's not -- the

damages to these victims are not \$25,000. They're much higher,

and we are proportioning it per defendant. And that's -- you

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know, so that amount is the amount for this defendant. It should not -- the government's position is, it should not be ordered joint and several.

THE COURT: I agree with you there, but I take

Mr. Abom's point that we don't really have an exact amount of
restitution owed by however many defendants have been
prosecuted, nor do I have any idea how many defendants have
been prosecuted on these particular cases.

PROBATION OFFICER: In most of the cases, also, the restitution amounts are in the millions, and what the attorneys are requesting for the victims are these lower amounts.

Additionally, we would have no way of knowing how many defendants and which defendants across the United States have been ordered to pay to each victim.

So it's my understanding this is the way they're dealing with this because it's not just Mr. Molina that's paying to these specific victims, there are hundreds of defendants paying into these.

And we have, at this point, had some victims that are saying they have been -- their restitution has been fulfilled and they are no longer seeking restitution.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. ABOM: And perhaps I should have asked to see what was requested. I mean, with all due respect to the government saying, we've parsed this out, my review of the presentence

investigation report was that there was communication to each 1 2 of the victims. THE COURT: Right. 3 MR. ABOM: And then the victims had attorneys 4 5 communicate directly with probation to make requests. I don't know if they have parsed out -- I mean, I'm 6 7 not arguing that maybe it's millions, hundreds of millions of 8 dollars, and they happen to know that there are 500 defendants being sentenced or not. I don't know how they go about slicing 9 10 that pie. Or, I mean, I think an appropriate request on behalf 11 of somebody is to say, request it all on this defendant because 12 13 I don't know how many other defendants are going to get 14 sentenced. And with respect to record keeping, that's really 15 not -- I mean, unjust enrichment -- somebody shouldn't be unjustly enriched. 16 THE COURT: We are aware, I'm certain -- I'm not 17 personally, but I'm sure somebody in this courtroom is aware of 18 19 how many times the particular victims in this case, how many 20 times Sarah, for example, has been notified that the pornography related to her has been observed, revealed. 21 2.2 MS. TAYLOR: Your Honor, these are all common -- what 23 Mr. Abom is bringing up now post-sentencing --2.4 THE COURT: Right. 25 MS. TAYLOR: -- are all things that defense attorneys

frequently raise with us during the plea agreement process. 1 2 MR. ABOM: Which is why we put that in the plea agreement, that it be joint and several with any other -- I 3 mean, it's in Paragraph 21 of the plea agreement that it agrees 4 5 that restitution be paid as to any victim as joint and several 6 with any other co-defendants who are ordered to pay restitution 7 to that victim. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MS. TAYLOR: Paragraph 21? MR. ABOM: Restitution and child pornography cases. 10 THE COURT: Ms. Weida, what does the plea agreement on 11 file with the court reflect with regard to restitution? 12 Mr. Abom, what paragraph is it? 13 14 MR. ABOM: I have Paragraph 21. I think Ms. Taylor 15 had a plea agreement that I had sent to the government that they were unhappy with, and so they came back to me with a 16 different one. 17 MS. TAYLOR: I just have all of them here, Your Honor, 18 19 so I have the correct one. 20 MR. ABOM: I have it as Document 425. 21 THE COURT: 425? Okay. PROBATION OFFICER: Your Honor, if it's the one I 22 23 have, it also agreed that the defendant would pay a minimum of \$50,000 per victim, which was not done in this case. 24 25 know if this -- this is the one I have filed on Document 425,

filed February 28th. 1 2 THE COURT: Is that the last version of the plea agreement? May I see it? 3 MS. TAYLOR: I believe it is, Your Honor. 4 5 THE COURT: Okay. PROBATION OFFICER: There is some written stuff in 6 7 here, but I don't see -- this is the one I have, Your Honor. 8 I'm not saying that is the most recent, but I believe. MS. TAYLOR: Your Honor, what Mr. Abom is referring 9 to -- well, I'll let the court read it. 10 THE COURT: Okay. So what is it, counsel? 11 Ms. Taylor, you wanted to say something about the agreement? 12 MS. TAYLOR: No, Your Honor, if the court's read it. 13 14 THE COURT: So he agrees that it's \$50,000 to any victim and that the \$50,000 would be joint and several with any 15 other co-defendants ordered to pay restitution to that victim. 16 Have any other co-defendants been ordered to pay restitution? 17 PROBATION OFFICER: It's very possible to these. Off 18 19 the top of my head, I do not know which ones currently would 20 have been ordered without doing a search of all the ones that have recently been sentenced. 21 THE COURT: In this case. 2.2 23 PROBATION OFFICER: With respect to this case. would not be able to tell the court, of course, all over the 2.4 25 United States.

THE COURT: No, and that's not a co-defendant. 1 PROBATION OFFICER: Correct. 2 MS. TAYLOR: And, Your Honor, we wouldn't --3 THE COURT: Go ahead. 4 5 MS. TAYLOR: These victims that -- of the possessory 6 offenses and the receipt offenses have not requested \$50,000 in restitution from Mr. Molina. That provision -- they have 7 8 requested the amounts that the court has ordered. That provision, as it's stated in the plea agreement 9 with the \$50,000 amount, is the provision that's in the plea 10 agreements relating to Victim 1 in the --11 THE COURT: The Augusta case. 12 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, Your Honor. As the court can see, 13 14 the handwriting in the agreement is Mr. Abom's, so that 15 provision was amended, but the amount wasn't. So, unfortunately, the situation we're in now is that 16 the provision of the plea agreement that Mr. -- what Mr. Molina 17 has agreed to is to pay \$50,000 to each victim, which, of 18 19 course, is not what they've requested. And so it seems --20 THE COURT: So the government waived that provision. MS. TAYLOR: In essence, Your Honor, I guess that 21 2.2 would be true, because we're certainly not requesting \$50,000. 23 THE COURT: Right. So the only question here is whether the 25,000 to Sarah, the 5,000 to Pia, the 5,000 to 24 25 Mya, and the 5,000 to Ava should be made joint and several with

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any co-defendants. And I don't remember, quite frankly, whether any of the co-defendants in this case viewed this particular pornography. MS. TAYLOR: I believe there are. There are one or two co-defendants that may have viewed some of those same But nevertheless, Your Honor, the government's series. position would be the same, that this type of restitution is being apportioned per defendant --THE COURT: Right. MS. TAYLOR: -- and should not be joint and several. THE COURT: All right. Well, that's his agreement with the government. He agreed to plead guilty, and the government made certain concessions, and one of those concessions was that it would be joint and several with other co-defendants, so that's what I'm going to order here.

MS. TAYLOR: But I thought Your Honor was saying we had waived that provision.

THE COURT: You waived the \$50,000 provision, the \$50,000 minimum restitution. The victims -- you say the victims didn't request it, but I don't think --

MS. TAYLOR: They did not request that amount, that's correct.

THE COURT: Right. But I don't think that would require -- the fact that they didn't request it I don't think would require the government to waive it, but you did waive it.

But --

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MS. TAYLOR: I think we should, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Right.

MS. TAYLOR: I mean, in all candor.

THE COURT: But the defendant did not agree to waive the commitment that the government made to him that it would be joint and several -- restitution would be joint and several with co-defendants in this case.

MS. TAYLOR: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So that's the way I will make the order. And then when we go forward, we'll have to ask probation to look carefully at the agreements, and maybe other defendants will have to have their restitution adjusted accordingly to make sure that the victims are made whole.

But in this instance, in fairness to Mr. Molina, he has an agreement that requires the court to order joint and several restitution with any co-defendants who are ordered to make payments to these same victims, and that's the way we'll order it.

PROBATION OFFICER: And, Your Honor, for the ones that have already been sentenced, we may have to amend their judgment and commitment orders because we're probably going to have some issues with the financial litigation unit as far as imposing only joint and several on one defendant and not the others if they're named. But I can look into that, and I can

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advise if those judgment and commitment orders would need to be
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     amended.
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              THE COURT: I have a feeling I'll hear from the
     government if that's the case. So we'll let it sit. Okay.
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              MS. TAYLOR: And, Your Honor, just --
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              THE COURT: Yes.
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              MS. TAYLOR: Just for the court's information going
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     forward, there would not be any other defendants that are
     similarly situated to Mr. Molina because of his unique
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     situation in any of the additional -- the few additional
     sentencings that we have outstanding. Other than the trial
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     defendants, none of those defendants would have agreements
     similar to Mr. Molina's.
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              THE COURT: All right. Mr. Abom, anything else for
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     the record?
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              MR. ABOM: Nothing further, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Thank you, counsel.
              MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: We'll be in recess.
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              COURTROOM DEPUTY: Court is in recess.
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          (Whereupon, the proceedings were adjourned at 10:40 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

I, Lori A. Shuey, Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, in and for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that pursuant to Section 753, Title 28, United States Code, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings held in the above-captioned matter and that the transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Dated in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, this 26th day of October, 2017.

## /s/ Lori A. Shuey

Lori A. Shuey

Federal Certified Realtime Reporter